

LONG STRIDE BACKWARD

A Glance at Some of the Early Dwellers Between Bonum and Machodoc.

FAMILIAR VIRGINIA NAMES

Few of the Early Mansions of Northern Neck Have Stood the Tooth of Time.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) HEATHSVILLE, VA., Dec. 5.—It is a long stride in the march of time since the era of the settlement of Westmoreland County. It covers more than two centuries and a half and affords room for many and great changes in the homes, the habits, the industries and even the names of a community. Few if any of the sites of the homes of the year 1700 in lower Westmoreland are occupied by houses now. The destructive play of elements and the remorseless flames seem to have obliterated every vestige of the abodes of that early and stirring period.

A mile or more above the Yocomoo, near the white house of the Potomac, dwelt Colonel George Eskridge. His home has been long familiarly known as Sandy Point. He was both an extensive planter and a lawyer of large and lucrative practice. The evidence of his professional popularity abounds in the court records of at least three counties. By good management and activity in bringing settlers and indentured servants into the colony he acquired from the colonial government numerous fine bodies of land. There is little room to doubt that it was in honor to him that the Father of his Country was named George.

The wife of his early manhood was Rebecca Bonum, daughter of Samuel Bonum, a settler on the creek that bears his name. The olive plants that began to gather around the family board as the fruitage of this union were four sons and four daughters, as nearly as we can now determine. The sons—George William, Samuel and Robert—grew to manhood, married and left descendants. One daughter married Patrick Spence, a forefather of President James Monroe, from above Nomine creek; another became Mrs. Margaret Kenner, having married Howson Kenner, of Northumberland; a third daughter, Sarah, married Captain Willio Newton.

Colonel Eskridge having lost the companion of his early years at Sandy Point married again. His second choice was only known as Elizabeth, who survived him. This woman was blessed with a daughter called by her mother's name, Elizabeth. Her charms later attracted Captain William Aylett, of King William county, who had, however, before this time, been married and resided in the county in the legislature. He was at the time of his courtship with Elizabeth Eskridge, a young widow with two infant girls—Elizabeth and Anne—the daughters of Anne Ashton, of "Booths," whom he had previously married.

Elizabeth Aylett, for such a change in her name was wrought by the above mentioned courtship, was destined to be left a widow by Captain Aylett's early death, and true to the example which he had set her, she found, also, a second companion. In this latter case she married Dr. James Steptoe, who had removed from Lancaster county and settled at "Hornby Hall," near the mouth of Bonum's creek.

Without dwelling longer on the fair daughters who were cradled at "Sandy Point," and whose births cluster closely around the year 1700, it may be said, at least, that their children added in no small measure to the social life and honorable distinction of their native county. In the vicinity of Bonum's creek, on ground not now easily identified, dwelt Samuel Bonum, whose death occurred, prior to the year 1700. He had seen family grow up around him of five children, at least, the offspring of his wife Margaret Phillips—a family name still used in connection with the plantation on which he had lived.

Two of these children were sons—Samuel and Thomas—and three daughters—viz., Sarah, Margaret and Rebecca. The latter was, who, as shown above, linked her heart and fortunes with the proprietor of "Sandy Point." Sarah Bonum died early without marrying. Thomas did also. Margaret became Mrs. William Root, an estate adjoining "Sandy Point," where it seems likely she became ancestress of the numerous families of the Root name, which in subsequent years noted largely to the elegance and social elegance of the lower half of Cople parish. Portraits in the possession of General Rust, a descendant of one of these families residing in New York City, speak eloquently. It is said of the personal charms that once adorned their Westmoreland home.

Samuel Bonum, brother to Mrs. Root, called his wife Catherine, and had by her three sons, viz., Samuel Daniel, and Phillipot. His death occurred in 1700

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when his children were of tender years. Time forbids our following their fortunes further than to say that the oldest of these sons—Samuel—was, who about the year 1715 married Elizabeth Johnson, the step-daughter of Col. Joseph Ball, of Lancaster, and half-sister of Mary, the mother of Washington. Seven or eight years of Mrs. Washington's life, prior to her marriage, were spent in the home of her sister, Elizabeth, it seems probable, and Samuel Bonum, at his death in 1728, bequeathed her substantial and affectionate tokens of his esteem, naming her in his will as "my sister." For him, Samuel, brother to General Washington, was apparently named.

MELANCHOLY MIST

A melancholy mist hangs over the life of Elizabeth Bonum after her husband's death. Did she marry again, and who are her posterity? are questions that press for answers. Like a bubble that bursts on the ocean, disappearing and leaving no trace behind, seems the fate of this young widow, who was for years the closest and tenderest earthly tie of the Bonum family in American history. Her name—Elizabeth—was likely given in her honor to General Washington's only sister.

But a few miles distant from where the families that have been named lived in 1700 and the early succeeding years, dwelt, also, Mrs. Rose Newton, whose husband, Captain John Newton, had died in 1697. Their home was near the head waters on Bonum's creek, probably known as "Wilmington," a quiet place to which Captain Newton retired after spending some years as commander of a ship.

He had been previously married in England, and three sons—John, Joseph and Benjamin—appear to have come with him to Virginia. His second wife, Mrs. Rose Gerrard, had before her marriage to Dr. Gerrard, married John Tucker (of Tucker's Hill) and had borne him two sons and two daughters. Of the eight or nine children of Dr. Gerrard, who inherited with Robert Slye, Daniel Hutt, John Crabbe, Colonel Thomas Speake, Colonel Valentine Peyton, Captain John Appleton, Col. John Washington, Mr. Wm. Maunders and Mr. James Johnston, the greater part were probably the issue of a previous marriage. How many of them claimed Mrs. Rose Gerrard as their mother, I cannot say.

Mrs. Gerrard after becoming the wife of Captain Newton had three children, mention of whom survives. They were Gerrard, Elizabeth and Thomas.

To outline the marriages and settlements of the twenty or more members of the composite family to which Mrs. Rose Newton sustained the relationship of mother and step-mother in the year 1700, would fill a large space. It is said, however, to say, that her daughter Sarah (Tucker) married the eminent lawyer, William Fitzhugh, of King George, and was ancestress of the widely extended and influential family, which he founded in Virginia. Her daughter Rose (Tucker) was led at her

marriage beyond the Potomac, and associated her name and blood with the Blackstone's of Maryland. Her son Gerard left descendants in the Northern Neck, and her son Thomas, through his marriage with Elizabeth Starke, whose tomb is still extant at Wilmington, has had prominent descendants of the Newton and other names in Westmoreland during all the generations since his death in 1727.

Elizabeth, the only daughter of Captain John and Mrs. Rose Newton, is believed to have married Captain Thomas Willoughby, and to have found a home in the vicinity of Norfolk.

THE ALLERTON'S.

In close proximity to the land of Captain Newton on Bonum's Creek, and reaching back to and along Machodoc Creek, was the plantation of Colonel Isaac Allerton, one of the earliest and most prominent settlers in Westmoreland. He was the only son of Isaac Allerton, a signer of the famous Plymouth Compact, and Peter Brewster, two of the picturesque figures of the group of pilgrims who landed from the Mayflower in 1620. He was graduated from Harvard College in 1640, and soon afterwards removed to Northumberland county, Va. About the year 1659, under a patent for land dated September 21, 1652, which he obtained from Lewis Burwell, he planted a settlement on Machodoc in the vicinity of the "Machodoc Indian town." This led to considerable trouble with the Indians, which was only terminated by the forcible interposition of the Northumberland commissioners. An Englishman named Jack Gummiack was slain by a club in the hand of an Indian of the barbarous name of Caquegrough, as growing out of these difficulties, and the murderous savage was hanged by sentence of a Northumberland jury in consequence.

Colonel Allerton served in various positions of public trust and service, as Justice, member of the Council, agent to treat with Maryland commissioners, and on the commission to supply the Potomac Fort erected against the Indians. The principal mill at the head of Nomini creek still in operation, was erected and carried on by him, as also one at the head of Machodoc, the site of the dam of which has long been only faintly discernible.

He died in the year 1702, well advanced in years, and his grave was made on his plantation called "The Narrows" on Machodoc Creek. The exact place of his burial, though once enclosed by a brick wall, has been long undistinguishable. A. indicating the demand for wives at this colonial era, and the facile way of obtaining them, it may be said in connection with Colonel Allerton that one Simon Overzee, who died in 1659 left a young widow Elizabeth (nee Willoughby), who the year following became the bride of Major George Colclough of Northumberland, who was at the time a widower having considerable property. A year later Major Colclough died, and

Isaac Allerton became his administrator. He was in 1668 released by the court from the obligation of his bond on the ground of having "married the relict." From his union with Elizabeth Colclough there sprung, as well as we can now ascertain, one son and four daughters, who were among the earliest of the English race to be reared on the Machodoc shores.

ON MACHODOC.

Willoughby Allerton entered into possession of his father's homestead at the date of his death indicated above. He held a lucrative post as collector of customs when the commercial imports of the county all came by ship from beyond the sea. Unfortunately the record evidence of his early marriage is lacking. Were it admissible to guess whom he married we might say Sarah Traversa, the youthful widow of Raleigh Traversa, of Richmond county, who, in the light of his will, died childless in 1700. The children of this first marriage, whether their mother has been correctly surmised or not, were Elizabeth and Isaac, second of the name in Virginia.

Col. Willoughby Allerton had well passed the meridian of his life, and was a widower when Col. John Bushrod died at "Bushfield." He again married about 1720 Mr. Bushrod's widow, who in the years of her girlhood was given the name of "Cypress Farm." Hannah, his daughter, was his only child, and her name and parentage are unimpaired. Allerton Newton was their son, and their descendants in Stafford and Alexandria were later on numerous and prominent.

Francis, married of Colonel Allerton's daughters, married of Richmond County, and brother of Raleigh mentioned above. She went to Franklin parish to reside, where the ancient register which happily survives contains the birth record of her three daughters—Elizabeth, Rebecca and William.

MARRIED A LEE.

The remaining daughter of this earliest Allerton home in Westmoreland was Sarah. She won the attentions of Hancock Lee, a younger brother of her father's near neighbor, Richard Lee. He was at the date of this courtship a widower with four young sons—the fruits of his previous marriage with Mary Kendall. He won the hand of Sarah Allerton about the year 1695, and she went to reside at his home at "Ditchley," in Northumberland. There she reared two sons and two daughters, and having died in 1731, rests with her husband and his earlier companions beneath the same massive slab.

At the death of Col. Willoughby Allerton his son Isaac succeeded to the occupancy of the home on Machodoc. It is not improbable that during the residence of Mrs. Lettice Lee at "Mount Pleasant," of Mrs. Lettice Lee at her death her niece, and subsequent to her death her niece, the daughter of Garvin Corbin, had been drawn from beyond the Rappahannock on visits of weeks to her home. However this may be, two of these nieces—Ann and Mildred—found suitors in lower Westmoreland. Ann married the second Isaac Allerton, who married the second John Bushrod, of "Bushfield." With an aunt the mother of the household at "Mount Pleasant," a niece in the Allerton home on Machodoc, and their brother Garvin Corbin establishing himself at "Puckett's," it may be readily seen how the links were closely forged between these hospitable centers of early family and social life on the lower Potomac.

There were born to Isaac Allerton and his wife Anne Corbin three sons who bore the ancestral names of Garvin, Willoughby and Isaac. They must have been still lads when their father died, went to school to a young Scotch tutor employed at "Stratford" does not appear. The young tutor, however, enjoyed acquaintance with Mrs. Allerton, and came to feel for her a special regard. He was a candidate for holy orders and alms for Mrs. Allerton's hand. His candidacy was crowned with success in each particular. The young widow became his wife and he, after his ordination as the Rev. David Currie, served for fifty years or more in the rectorship of Christ's church in Lancaster county. G. W. B.

A SMALL BEGINNING AND A GOOD RESULT

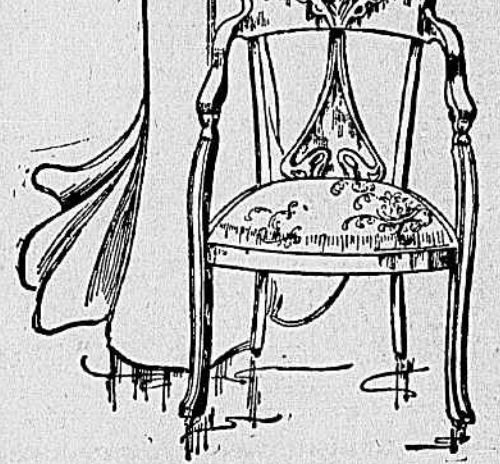
A few years ago an ambitious young girl named Rosa Weiss decided that she wanted a college education and she spoke to her brother about it. He told her that it was impossible for him to pay the fees, but taking a nickel from his pocket, he jestingly said, "Go on that." She laughed as she took the small coin, and turned it over in her hand. Her brother did not know that his thoughtless joke would serve as an incentive to his sister.

With that nickel she bought a yard of calico, and before night that day she had made a sunbonnet and sold it for a quarter. She invested the money in more calico, and more sunbonnets were soon made and sold. Then she added aprons to her stock and built up a brisk little business with these two useful articles.

It was not long before she had quite a pile of dollars at her command and her brother was so much pleased at her industry and enterprise, which he called "grit," that he gave her a small piece of land on which she cultivated potatoes. The first year she made \$60 from her potato crop and she soon had sufficient

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fund to begin her college course. She carried enough during the four years at college to pay all her expenses, and was not obliged to neglect her studies. She won high in all her classes and graduated with honor, after which she went to Baltimore. There she entered the medical college, paid her tuition by nursing, and today she is a successful physician, with a large practice.—The Little Chronicle.

Manganese Corporation. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) STAUNTON, VA., Dec. 3.—A charter has been granted to the Manganese Corporation of Virginia, and has been placed on record here in the Circuit Court clerk's office. The principal office of the new corporation will be at Chesapeake, Augusta county. The object of this company is to acquire manganese, coal, oil and iron land, and mineral land of different kinds; to manufacture and buy lumber, machinery and implements. The minimum stock is \$10,000, and is divided into one thousand shares of \$10.00 each. The maximum capital is \$300,000. SCOTTSVILLE PEOPLE. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) SCOTTSVILLE, VA., Dec. 2.—Dr. H. M. Williams, of North Gartin, is in Scottsville. Mr. Claiborne Lewis, of Davis, W. Va., is visiting his sister, Mrs. A. P. Bowles, Mr. Maurice Baptist, of North Garden, spent Sunday in Chester. Mr. S. P. Smith, of Clifton Forge, visited his parents at Antioch last week. Miss Dimpie Blair returned to her school at Mount Airy this week, after spending Thanksgiving at home. Mrs. E. L. Payne, of Hutton, visited Scottsville on Wednesday, accompanied by Miss Bessie Holladay. Mrs. H. C. Strudwick, of Greenville, North Carolina, returned home today.

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